

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A glass-ceramic plate comprising at least one opening located within a bent portion of said plate, said opening being at a location other than a heating area and having an angular or polygon shape,  
wherein an outer peripheral edge around said opening is bent upwards, and  
wherein said opening is a suction hood opening configured for use with a suction hood for allowing for the extraction of cooking gases.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said opening is at least 35 mm from an edge of the plate.
4. (Previously Presented) The plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said opening occupies a position in a central area of said plate.
5. (Currently Amended) A glass-ceramic plate comprising at least one opening located within a bent portion of said plate, ~~this said~~ opening being at a location other than a heating area ~~and/or~~ and having at least one dimension greater than 10 cm ~~and/or~~ and having an angular or polygon and/or complex shape, ~~wherein said opening has a polygonal shape~~.
6. (Previously Presented) The plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said suction hood is located beneath said plate.
7. (Previously Presented) The plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said opening is covered with a protective element configured to prevent objects from dropping therethrough while still allowing cooking gases to be sucked therethrough.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A cooking and/or high-temperature-maintaining device comprising a glass-ceramic plate as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The plate as claimed in claim 7, wherein said protective element is a mesh.

13. (Previously Presented) The plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plate is of a one-piece construction.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said opening is at least 35 mm from each heating area of said plate.

16. (Previously Presented) The plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said opening has at least one dimension greater than 10 cm.

17. (Previously Presented) The plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said opening has an angular shape.

18. (Previously Presented) The plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said opening has a complex shape.

19. (New) A cooktop comprising:  
a glass-ceramic plate comprising at least one opening located within a bent portion of said plate, said opening being at a location other than a heating area; and  
a protective element configured to cover said opening,

wherein an outer peripheral edge around said opening is bent upwards,  
wherein said opening is a suction hood opening configured for use with a suction  
hood for allowing for the extraction of cooking gases, and

wherein a seal is provided between said protective element and said glass-ceramic  
plate such that said protective element does not directly contact said glass-ceramic plate.

20. (New) The cooktop as claimed in claim 19, wherein said seal is a fibrous annular  
seal that is impermeable to liquids.